

## Message Text

PAGE 01 THE HA 02208 151400 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01

/128 W

----- 066306

R 151225 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1300

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMMBASSY PARIS 3256

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCLANT

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL SALT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2208

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

CINCLANT FOR ADM COUSINS

USNMR SHAPE FOR GEN. GOODPASTER

FOR POLADS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 THE HA 02208 151400 Z

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, NL

SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH NEW DEFMIN VREDELING

REF: (A) THE HAGUE A-303 OF 11 /21/72 (NOTAL)  
(B) THE HAGUE A-63 OF 2/28/72 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN FIVE SEPARATE INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED MAY 11-12 IN LEADING DUTCH DAILIES, NEW DEFMIN VREDELING MADE EFFORT TO PORTRAY HIMSELF AS MODERATE WHO WILL BE HIS WON MAN AS DEFMIN AND WILL NOT REGARD DEFENSE PROGRAM OF LEFTIST PARTIES' ELECTION PROGRAM AS DOGMA. VREDELING EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SAVINGS IN NETHS DEFENSE BUDGET AND RATIONALIZATION OF NATO DEFENSE TASKS BUT ALSO STRESSED GOAL OF UNDIMINISHED NETHS CONTRIBU- TION TO NATO DEFENSE EFFORT AND NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CHANGES IN CONSULTATION WITH NATO. MAIN POINTS IN INTERVIEWS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. FULL TEXTS BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. OVERALL DEFENSE POLICY. VREDELING SAID HE HAS ORDERED IN- DEPTH STUDIES OF NETHS DEFENSE EFFORT IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATION OF DEFENSE WHITE PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED LATER THIS YEAR. STARTING POINT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DEFENSE POLICY, HE SAID, ARE HIS OWN LABOR PARTY' S 1971 POLICY PAPER ON DEFENSE ( REF B) AND DEFENSE PROVISIONS OF JOINT 1972 ELECTION PROGRAM OF LABOR, RADICAL, AND DEMOCRATE 166 PARTIES. ( REF A). HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT INTEND SIMPLY TO BE EXECUTOR OF LEFTIST PROGRAM AS LAID DOWN IN THESE DOCUMENTS. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING THAT HE DID NOT PERSONALLY CONSIDER TO BE RESPONSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION, VREDELING NOTED THAT AS DEFMIN HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY OF 13 MILLION NETHERLANDERS AND, INDIRECTLY, FOR SECURITY OF 300 MILLION WEST EUROPEANS.

2. DEFENSE BUDGE AND DEFENSE RATIONALIZATION . VREDELING SAID THAT CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF LEFTIST PARTIES TO SAVE 1500 MILLION GUILDERS IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, DURING NEXT FOUR YEARS WAS FEASIBLE, BUT SAID SUCH SAVINGS MUST BE ACHIEVED IN RESPONSIBLE MANNER. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH 80 MILLION GUILDERS WOULD BE CUT FROM 1973 BUDGET, HE DID NOT THINK DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN COMING YEARS WOULD BE LESS THAN CURRENT APPROPRIATED LEVEL OF APPROX 5200 MILLION GUILDERS AND NOTED THAT ANNUAL WAGE AND PRICE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 THE HA 02208 151400 Z

INCREASES OF 10-13 PERCENT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO PROVISION IN LABOR/ RADICAL/ D'66 ELECTION PROGRAM TO SET GOAL OF REDUCING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TO 3 PERCENT OF GNP, VREDELING SAID ESTABLISHMNET OF FIXED PERCENTAGE OF GNP FOR DEFENSE WAS " NONESSENSE." VREDELING EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN FEASIBILITY OF MAKING SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS ( E. G. THROUGH MEASURES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF NETHS ARMED FORCES AND THROUGH REDISTRIBUTION OF AND SPECIALIZATION IN NATO DEFENSE ROLES) WITHOUT UNDERMINING ESSENTIAL NATO TASKS PERFORMED BY NETHS. VREDELING ALSO SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE NATO AND EC COULD BE SEPARATED AND SAID HE WOULD SEE THE DAY WHEN EC DEFENSE MINISTERS WOULD HOLD CONSULTATIONS. NEW DEFENSE STATE SECRETARY STEMERDINK, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING ONE OF INTERVIEWS, TOLD REPORTER THAT SOME

PRESS ARTICLES HAD CONTAINED REPORT THAT IF FURTHER COOPERATION AND SPECIALIZATION DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN NATO FRAMEWORK, NEW DUTCH GOVT WOULD ACT UNILATERALLY. STEMERKINK CHARACTERIZED SUCH REPORTS AS EXAGGERATED, BUT NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED DETERMINATION OF NEW GOVT TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERTION.

3. EAST- WEST NEGOTIATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL. VREDELING SAID DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PURSUING ACTIVE ROLE IN SEARCH FOR PEACE. IN GENERAL, HE SAID, NETHS MUST PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE THAN WAS CASE IN PAST IN EAST- WEST DISCUSSIONS AND IN COOPERATION WITH U. S. SALT, CSCE, AND MBFR TALKS ARE PROMISING, BUT TWO SUPERPOWERS MUST PROVE THAT THEY ARE REALLY STRIVING FOR PEACE AND LASTING REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. IF US AND SOVIETS ACT POSITIVELY, THERE WOULD BE POSSIBILITY OF CATALYTIC ACTIONS BY EUROPEANS TO SPEED UP DETENTE PROCESS IF DEVELOPMENT OF US AND SOVIET POSTIONS IS NEGATIVE, WEST EUROPEANS MUST ENSURE THAT ALL OF EUROPE DOES NOT SILENTLY, AND WITH APPROVAL OF US, FALL UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT SOVIET AND US INTENTIONS MEANS THAT WEST EUROPEANS MUST BE MORE CRITICAL AND TAKE MORE INITIVES IN EAST- WEST TALKS. WEST EUROPEANS COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, RAISE POSSIBILITY OF EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE IN NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE VREDELING IS FIRMLY AGAINST SUCH A FORCE, HE SAID THAT ITS POTENTIAL EXISTENCE COULD NOT BE DENIED AND WEST EUROPEANS CULD ASK WHAT THEY WOULD GET IF THEY RENOUNCED CREATION OF JOINT NUCLEAR FORCE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 THE HA 02208 151400 Z

PROVISION IN LABOR/ RADICAL/ D166 ELECTION PROGRAM CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM NETHS, VREDELING SAID THAT INTEGRATED DICISON MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN NATO--" I START FROM THE PREMISE THAT IN THIS FIELD THE NETHERLANDS MUST NOT BECOME A SECOND FRANCE."

4. GREECE AND PORTUGAL. VREDELING SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS ANTI- NATO CURRENT IN NETHS, BUT AS REALIST HE DID NOT THINK NETHS COULD LEAVE NATO OVER SUCH QUESTIONS AS GREECE AND PORTUGAL-- THAT IS A " SILLY" IDEA. VREDELING SAID GREECE AND PORTUGAL DO NOT BELONG IN NATO, BUT EXPELLING THEM IS NOT FEASIBLE, AND NETHS CANNOT LEAVE NATO SIMPLY BECAUSE ALLIANCE HAS SOME UNDERSIRABLE ASPECTS.

5. SERVICE TIME FOR CONSCRIPTS. VREDELING SAID DEFENSE WHITE PAPER WOULD EXAMINE QUESTION OF REDUCING SERVICE TIME FOR GREATER PART OF CONSCRIPTS FROM 16 TO 12 MONTHS. VREDELING EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS REDUCTION COULD BE ACHIEVED BY END 1974. IN LONG RUN, VREDELING AID HE FAVORED ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE. MIDDENDORF

UNCLASSIFIED  
NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973THEHA02208  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730560/abqcekto.tel  
**Line Count:** 161  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ( A ) THE HAGUE A-303 OF 11 /21/72 ( NOTAL) ( B ) THE HAGUE A-63 OF 2/28/72 ( NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kellerpr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <17-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980213  
**Subject:** PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH NEW DEFMIN VREDELING  
**TAGS:** MCAP, NL  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO LUXEMBOURG  
BONN  
BRUSSELS  
HELSINKI  
LONDON  
AMMBASSY PARIS

VIENNA  
NATO  
USCINCEUR  
USCINCLANT  
USNMR SHAPE  
SALT  
ATHENS  
LISBON

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005